

In the Claims

Please cancel claim 16 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original subject matter in a continuing application. Please amend claims 1, 4, 15, and 17; and add claims 21-24 as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A system for delivering digital subscriber line (DSL) service to a subscriber, comprising:

an adapter configured to interface with a protector field;
a protector module ~~associated with~~ connected to said adapter; and
a cross connect block in communication with said adapter and configured to selectively route a signal received by said cross connect block to a splitter for combining and separating signals, with one of said signals being a DSL signal from a DSL system;
wherein a pair gain signal transmitted through said protector field is rerouted by said adapter ~~through said protector module~~ to said cross connector block and then back to said protector field through said protector module.

2. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said protector module is a separate component.

3. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said protector module is a subcomponent of said adapter.

4. **(Currently Amended)** ~~The system according to claim 1,~~ A system for delivering digital subscriber line (DSL) service to a subscriber, comprising:

an adapter configured to interface with a protector field;
a protector module associated with said adapter, wherein said adapter is configured to directly interface with said protector field while said protector module indirectly interfaces with said protector field through said adapter; and
a cross connect block in communication with said adapter and configured to selectively route a signal received by said cross connect block to a splitter for combining and separating signals, with one of said signals being a DSL signal from a DSL system;

wherein a pair gain signal transmitted through said protector field is rerouted by said adapter through said protector module to said cross connector block and then back to said protector field.

5. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein at least one conductor projecting out from a surface of said protector module is received by at least one corresponding receptacle of said adapter, and wherein at least one conductor projecting out from a surface of said adapter is received by at least one corresponding receptacle of said protector field.

6. (Original) The system according to claim 5, wherein placement of said at least one conductor of said adapter is equivalent to a placement of said at least one conductor of said protector module.

7. (Original) The system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a first two-way route for communicating said pair gain signal from a pair gain system, through said protector field and cross connect block, to said subscriber,
a second two-way route, partially overlapping said first route, for communicating said pair gain signal from said pair gain system, through said splitter, to said subscriber; and
a disruptor for selectively activating one of said first and second routes.

8. (Original) The system according to claim 7, wherein no noticeable disruption of telephone service occurs during said selective activation of said first and second routes.

9. (Original) The system according to claim 7, wherein only one of said first and second routes are activated at one time.

10. (Original) The system according to claim 7, wherein said first route includes:
a first connection between said adapter and a first terminal on said cross connect block,
and
a second connection between a second terminal on said cross connect block and said adapter;

and wherein said second route includes:
said first connection between said adapter and said first terminal on said cross connect block,
a third connection between said first terminal on said cross connect block and said splitter,
a fourth connection between said splitter and said second terminal on said cross connect block, and
said second connection between said second terminal on said cross connect block and said adapter.

11. (Original) The system according to claim 7, wherein said disruptor disrupts said first route so as to divert said pair gain signal to said splitter.

12. (Original) The system according to claim 10, wherein said disruptor disrupts a signal path running through said cross connect block between said first terminal and said second terminal.

13. (Original) The system according to claim 12, wherein said disruption of said signal path includes an insertion of a disconnect plug into said cross connect block.

14. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said cross connect block is an insulation displacement connection (IDC) block.

15. **(Currently Amended)** A method of delivering digital subscriber line (DSL) service to a subscriber, comprising the steps of:

connecting an adapter to a protector field; and
connecting a protector module to said adapter, wherein said adapter establishes a communication loop with a cross connect block through which a pair gain signal can travel;
diverting a pair gain signal passing through [[a]] the protector field to [[a]] the cross connect block;

selectively establishing a communication route between said cross connect block and a splitter selectively receiving a DSL signal; and

routing all signals output by said cross connect block through the protector module and to said protector field.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein said ~~diverting steps~~ comprises the following sub-steps, including: step of connecting the adapter includes inserting at least one conductor projecting out from a surface of ~~an~~ the adapter into at least one corresponding receptacle of said protector field; and wherein the step of connecting the protector module to the adapter includes inserting at least one conductor projecting out from a surface of a the protector module into at least one corresponding receptacle of said adapter.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein said step of selectively establishing a communication route between said cross connect block and said splitter includes the step of disrupting a signal path running through said cross connect block between a first terminal and a second terminal.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein said step of disrupting a signal path includes insertion of a disconnect plug into said cross connect block.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein said step of selectively establishing a communication route between said cross connect block and said splitter produces no noticeable disruption of telephone service to said subscriber.

21. (New) The system according to claim 1, wherein said protector module is a 5-pin protector module that plugs into said adapter.

22. (New) The system according to claim 21, wherein said adapter is a 5-pin adapter that plugs into receptacles of the protector field normally occupied by the protector module.

23. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the step of connecting the protector module to the adapter includes plugging a 5-pin protector module into receptacles of the adapter.

24. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein the step of connecting the adapter includes plugging a 5-pin adapter into receptacles of the protector field normally occupied by the protector module.